

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 are pending.

Claims 2, 9, and 10 are being canceled, claims 1, 3-8 and 11-14 are being amended, and new claims 16-28 are being added.

After the amendments, claims 1, 3-8 and 11-28 will be pending. Claim 15 has been withdrawn from consideration.

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A 293T cell used for the production of retroviruses, wherein the cell ~~[[has]]~~ contains an expression construct ~~comprised of~~ comprising a DNA encoding one or more retroviral structural proteins operably linked downstream of an EFl α promoter, wherein the one or more retroviral structural proteins are selected from the group consisting of gag, pol, and env.
2. (Canceled)
3. (Currently amended) The cell according to claim ~~[[2]]~~ 1 wherein the ~~retroviral structural proteins expressed comprise~~ expression construct comprises DNA encoding gag, pol, and env.
4. (Currently amended) The cell according to claim 3, ~~which has~~ containing a first expression construct expressing gag and pol from an EFl α promoter, and a second expression construct expressing env from an EFl α promoter.
5. (Currently amended) The cell according to claim 3, wherein the env is derived from either an ecotropic retrovirus or an amphotropic retrovirus.

6. (Currently amended) The cell according to claim 1, wherein a Kozak's consensus sequence is ~~placed~~ located upstream of a translation initiation codon of the DNA encoding the one or more retroviral structural proteins in the expression construct.
7. (Currently amended) The cell according to claim 1, wherein the DNA encoding the one or more retroviral structural proteins is ~~bound~~ linked to a DNA encoding a selective marker via an IRES sequence.
8. (Currently amended) The cell according to claim 1, wherein the DNA encoding the one or more retroviral structural proteins is substantially free from virus genome-derived DNA ~~with the exception of the protein coding region~~ other than the DNA encoding the one or more structural proteins.
9. (Canceled)
10. (Canceled)
11. (Currently amended) ~~[[The]]~~ A cell specified by ~~the accession~~ Accession No. FERM BP-6737 or FERM BP-6977 as deposited at the National Institute of Bioscience and Human-Technology in Japan.
12. (Currently amended) A method for producing a retrovirus, the method comprising the step of: introducing into the cell of claim 1 a retroviral vector DNA ~~lacking at least one of the genes encoding a viral structural protein into the cell of claim 1~~ that lacks sequence encoding at least one of gag, pol and env.
13. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12, wherein the retroviral vector DNA lacks sequence encoding all of the genes gag, pol, and env.

14. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 12, in which a foreign [[gene]] coding sequence is included in the retroviral vector DNA.
15. (Withdrawn) A retrovirus produced by the method of claim 12.
16. (New) The cell according to claim 3, wherein a Kozak's consensus sequence is located upstream of a translation initiation codon of the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins in the expression construct.
17. (New) The cell according to claim 3, wherein the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins is linked to a DNA encoding a selective marker via an IRES sequence.
18. (New) The cell according to claim 3, wherein the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins is substantially free from virus genome-derived DNA other than the DNA encoding gag, pol, and env.
19. (New) A method for producing a retrovirus, the method comprising the step of introducing into the cell of claim 3 a retroviral vector DNA that lacks sequence encoding gag, pol, and env.
20. (New) The method according to claim 19, in which a foreign coding sequence is included in the retroviral vector DNA.
21. (New) The cell according to claim 4, wherein the env is derived from either an ecotropic retrovirus or an amphotropic retrovirus.
22. (New) The cell according to claim 4, wherein a Kozak's consensus sequence is located upstream of a translation initiation codon of the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins in each of the first and second expression constructs.

23. (New) The cell according to claim 4, wherein the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins in each of the first and second expression constructs is linked to a DNA encoding a selective marker via an IRES sequence.

24. (New) The cell according to claim 4, wherein the DNA encoding the retroviral structural proteins in the first and second expression constructs is substantially free from virus genome-derived DNA other than the DNA encoding gag, pol, and env.

25. (New) A method for producing a retrovirus, the method comprising the step of introducing into the cell of claim 4 a retroviral vector DNA that lacks sequence encoding gag, pol, and env.

26. (New) The method according to claim 25, in which a foreign coding sequence is included in the retroviral vector DNA.

27. (New) A method for producing a retrovirus, the method comprising the step of introducing into the cell of claim 11 a retroviral vector DNA that lacks sequence encoding gag, pol, and env.

28. (New) The method according to claim 27, in which a foreign coding sequence is included in the retroviral vector DNA.